

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 26, 2011

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA employees at a United Space Alliance (USA) Reception hosted by the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology on October 26, 2011

The United Space Alliance is sponsoring a reception hosted by the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology at 2325 Rayburn House Office Building, in Washington, D.C., on October 26, 2011, from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the achievement of the Space Shuttle and NASA's Human Spaceflight Program.

Approximately 300 invitations were sent and 200 people are expected to attend this reception. Expected attendees include NASA personnel, USA current and former employees, industry representatives, academia, local government and community leaders. The reception will include hors d'oeuvres and refreshments valued at approximately \$25 per person. In accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g), and 14 C.F.R. § 1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering."

I further find that there is an agency interest in having NASA employees attend the event, as they will have the opportunity to further agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information about the Shuttle program and future spaceflight with other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees who have been invited to attend may accept free attendance at the event. They may also accept invitations for accompanying spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Moreover, NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which they are required to sign an ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490 may only attend if they reimburse the sponsors the cost of the event for themselves and accompanying guests.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone